

# T TRAVELLER



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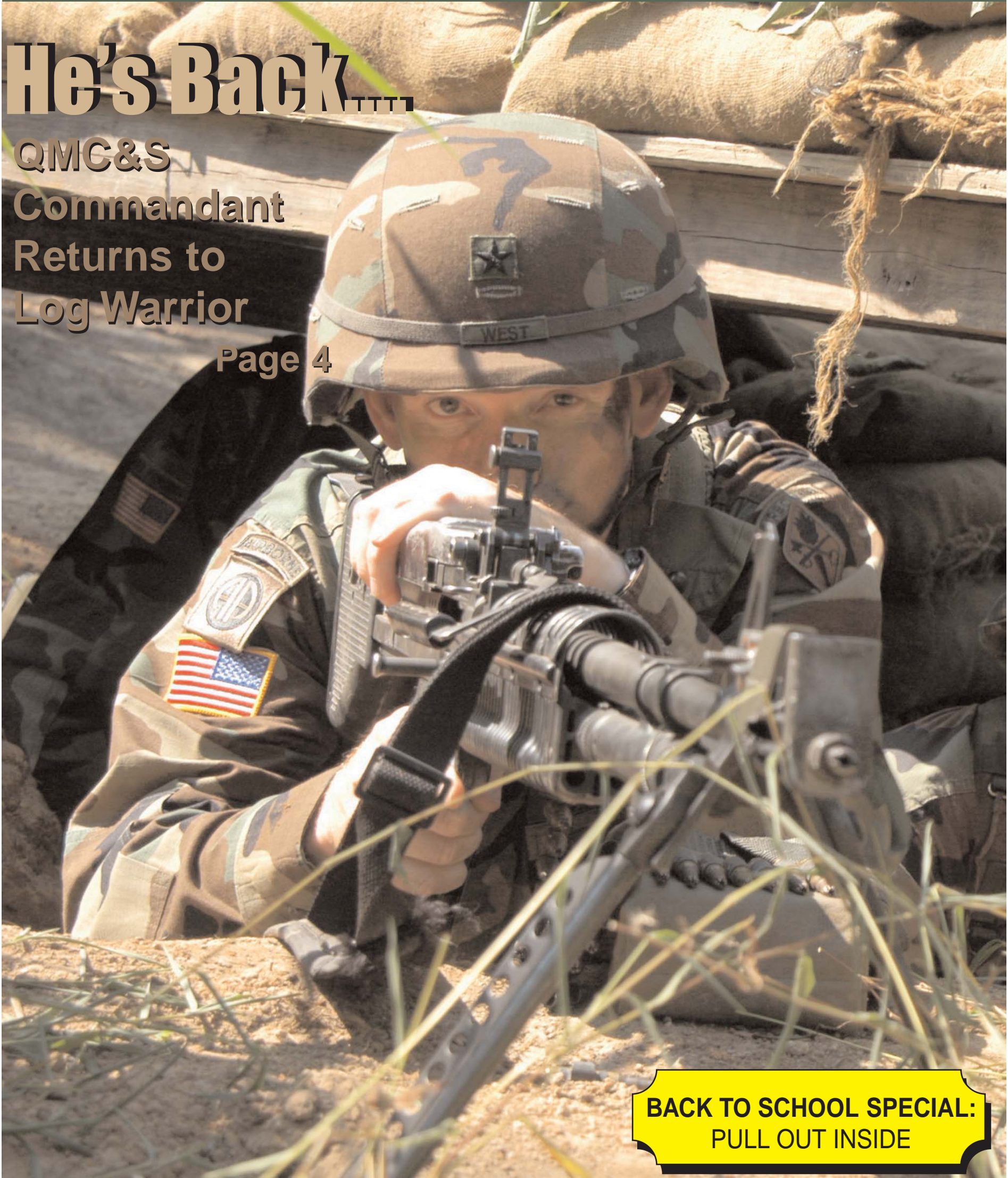
The command authorized newspaper serving the Fort Lee community since 1941

Aug. 19, 2004

## He's Back....

QMC&S  
Commandant  
Returns to  
Log Warrior

Page 4



**BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL:  
PULL OUT INSIDE**



# Rumsfeld looks at America's progress

More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq.

As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives.

Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the president are deeply grateful.

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues — none more heated than a decision to go to war.

But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

On Sept. 11, 2003, more than 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies.

The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against other civilized societies.

This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent people's heads to try to intimidate great nations.



**Donald H. Rumsfeld**  
Secretary of Defense

They have murdered citizens from many countries — South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others — hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people.

Theirs is an ideology of oppression and subjugation of women.

They seek to create radical systems that impose their views on others. And they will accept no armistice with those who choose free systems.

They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.

Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and

***"By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people."***

— Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense

launched ballistic missiles at two more.

He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime.

And over the years the United Nations passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the United Nations about his weapons programs.

He ignored every one.

Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified.

The U.N. resolutions had called for "serious consequences" should Saddam not comply. He did not.

The president issued a final ultima-

tum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people.

By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start.

But most importantly, your fight — and ultimate victory — against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic — and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.

**Donald H. Rumsfeld**  
Secretary of Defense

The *Traveller*  
welcomes

Letters to the Editor.  
Articles may be sent to  
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## Postings from 'To Our Soldiers' home page

To: All Soldiers especially Francis deVenecia  
From: Marilou Reyes-Alegre in California

May GOD bless you all for everything that you have sacrificed in order to fight for our country.

May you all have the strength and courage needed to overcome all obstacles.

When you wake up, before you head out, and whenever you can, just pray and HE will take care of you.

We love you all...keep up the good work!!!

To: All our Soldiers

From: Jose D. Medina in New Jersey

Although words can't truly express the grateful gratitude I have for the men and women who sacrifice their lives for freedom, I just want you to know that here in new jersey, we have flags on every street; and our profound hope is that God will answer the many prayers of this small town, and safely bring our troops home. God bless, and may God bless the country of America.

More messages may be viewed at  
[www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/](http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/)

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**TRAVELLER**

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### on the cover



Quartermaster General, Brig. Gen. Scott West, who just returned from a deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom takes aim with an M-60 machine gun while visiting the LOG Warrior field training site. See Page 4 for article and additional photos.  
Photo by Jason Cardenas

The Fort Lee *Traveller*  
is printed on recycled paper.



## Post honors Soldiers' memories

The Fort Lee community paid tribute Friday to three Soldiers who died last week.

Spc. Nathan Faulkner and Spc. Allen Twobabies, 217th Military Police Detachment, died in an off-post car crash early Tuesday morning.

Sgt. Lancer Dever, a Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course student from Fort Campbell, Ky., died in an unrelated event Wednesday morning.



**Fort Lee's Memorial Chapel was the site of two services in memory of three Soldiers who died last week. (Left, is the display prepared to honor Sgt. Lancer Dever, a Basic Noncommissioned Officer student from Fort Campbell, Ky. Right is the display for Spc. Nathan Faulkner and Spc. Allen Twobabies, both of the 217th Military Police Detachment).**

# Anthrax treatment depends on Soldiers' plasma donations

by **Jim Garamone**  
American Forces Press Service

A new program started Aug. 12 to develop a new defense against anthrax will depend on servicemembers' donated plasma to be most effective.

The greatest number of the 1.2 million people vaccinated against anthrax — a deadly disease that can be used in biological warfare — is in the military.

Their blood plasma — the straw-colored fluid part of the blood — can be used to make a new medication called anthrax immune globulin, said Army Col. John D. Grabenstein, the deputy director of the Military Vaccine Agency, in a telephone interview.

Unlike a vaccine that prevents disease, the anthrax immune globulin will be used to treat "people who develop a severe anthrax infection," Grabenstein noted.

They would receive the globulin along with antibiotics "to give anthrax — infected patients their best chance for survival."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is in charge of the program.

The CDC, part of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, is the lead federal agency in protecting people's health and safety. Department of Defense responded to HHS' call for assistance by agreeing to distribute information to service members.

"The plasma part of the blood has a lot of antibodies in it," Grabenstein said. "Antibodies are proteins that people use to defend themselves from infection."

From that plasma, CDC can derive the medication to treat severe cases of anthrax.

The CDC wants to make enough anthrax immune globulin to protect between 5,000 and 10,000 people. They could be anybody in the country, civilian or military, Grabenstein said.

The globulin will go into the CDC's strategic national stockpile, a collection of emergency supplies for mass-casualty events.

He said CDC "will need a good number of volunteers" to reach this goal.

And he does mean volunteers. No one will order anyone to participate.

**See ANTHRAX on Page 9**

## Claims office makes changes, offers class

by **Michael K. Crookshank**  
Chief of Claims

The Fort Lee Claim Office now offers a short class on how to file a claim for loss or damage to household goods at, 8:30 a.m. on normal duty days, except Thursdays.

The class lasts about 30 minutes.

Claimants will learn how to complete the forms necessary to file a household damaged goods claim.

Anyone who plans to file a claim for damage to their household goods during transportation should plan to attend one of these classes.

Claims personnel will accept DD Form 1840/1840R (Loss or Damage to Property Form) and

Household Goods Claims from 9 a.m. - noon on normal duty days, except Thursdays.

The DD Form 1840/1840R is the pink form given to customers by the carrier when their property is delivered noting damages discovered at the time of delivery.

The back of the DD Form 1840 is the 1840R form listing losses or damages discovered after the carrier left the customer's home.

Claimants should have all copies of the DD Form 1840/1840R given to them by the carrier when they come to the office.

Notice of Loss or Damaged property and claims for household goods damage will not be accepted after noon.

Claims other than household goods can be filed daily after 1 p.m. daily.

Customers who have recently rotated to Fort Lee, are reminded the DD Form 1840/1840R must be filed with the Claims Division, OSJA, within 70 days of the delivery of their household goods.

While customers have two years to file a claim, the notice of loss or damaged items must be submitted to the office within 70 days of delivery.

Customers who do not provide timely notice of loss or damage, may have their claim denied in whole or in part.

For class location, call (804) 765-1500.

## News Briefs

### Madison Park Demolition today

The community is invited to watch the first sledgehammer swing as the demolition of Madison Park begins today, 9 a.m.

The razing ceremony will be held at quarters 635 on Reims Road off of Cherbourg Road.

### Town Hall Meeting Wednesday

A Housing Town Hall meeting for all Fort Lee residents will be held Wednesday, 6 - 8 p.m. at the East Community Center on Sisisky Avenue.

The program includes a briefing on upcoming projects and a period for residents to voice their concerns.

### Mandatory Ethics Training

A mandatory briefing on professional ethics for Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians will be held today, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., in the Lee Playhouse on Mahone Avenue.

### Pharmacy Closed Today

The Kenner Army Clinic Pharmacy will be closed today from 8 - 10 a.m. for mandatory training.

### Feral Cat Traps Set

Residents who disturb traps for feral animals put themselves and others at risk.

Many feral animals, especially cats, have not been vaccinated and can spread rabies and other diseases.

Anyone disturbing traps may be cited by the Fort Lee Police.

To report a trapped animal, call (804) 734-7400.

### Post Cleanup

Anyone with question about post cleanup can call (804) 734-7175.

### Telephone Problems?

To report a problem with a military/official phone, call (804) 734-7515.

### Medical Shuttle

The shuttle service provided by Kenner Army Health Clinic to Portsmouth Naval Medical Center now leaves at 6 a.m.

### CID Hotline

To provide agents with anonymous tips or reports illegal activities call (804) 734-1451 or (804) 734-1506.

### Fire Hydrant Test

Fort Lee Fire and Emergency Services Division are testing fire hydrants in August.

Residents can expect problems with water pressure as these tests are performed.

For information, call (804) 734-7097.

### CIF Information

The Central Issue Facility is located in Building 6241 at the intersection of 11th Street and Front Access Road.

Unit supply representatives must call (804) 734-3514 for turn-in and issue appointments.

### Renovations Free to Soldiers

The 16th Field Service Company Renovation Shop, located in Building 6051 on Shop Road, is open Monday, noon - 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; and closed Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

For information, call (804) 734-3646.





PHOTOS BY JASON CARDENAS

Brig. Gen. Scott West, Quartermaster Center and School commandant, draws a bead with an M-60 machine gun at the LOG Warrior training site. West's recent experiences in Iraq are also allowing him to site down on ways to strengthen training at the QMC&S.



(Above) Brig. Gen. Scott West, Quartermaster Center and School commandant, talks with Pvt. Matthew Hall about the clearing and loading of the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon. (Below) Pfc. Christopher Monroe informs Brig. Gen. Scott West, Quartermaster Center and School commandant, about why he tied knots in his 550-cord to signify he drank four canteens of water.



## QM general brings OIF lessons to LOG Warrior

by Jason Cardenas  
Staff Writer

After an extended tour of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Quartermaster Corps general brought valuable lessons learned back to Fort Lee and its logistical warriors.

"We need to capitalize on the skills of the leaders who have experienced combat in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Brig. Gen. Scott West, Quartermaster Center and School, commandant.

"As noncommissioned officers and officers come thought Fort Lee, we need to use their expertise to improve how we train."

The Logistics Warrior Field Training Exercise or Log Warrior is a multi-echelon training event focusing on the critical technical tasks for each of Fort Lee's nine advanced individual training courses, and leadership tasks for Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, Advanced Noncommissioned Officer

Course and Officer Basic Course students.

The exercise uses a combination of training events such as lanes training, map and field exercises in a field environment.

The overall objective of the exercise is to train Soldiers in the basic standards they will be required to adhere to with any tactical unit in the Army.

To this end, training parameters require all training be realistic, hands on, performance oriented, and evaluated against the Army standard.

"LOG Warrior has improved the focus on Warrior Ethos. Physical and mental challenges are tougher and the stress is higher," West said. "LOG Warrior is better today than at anytime in my memory."

"It will help quartermaster warriors prepare for combat; however, it is very difficult to replicate the characteristics of the battlefield."

"We have a lot of work to do to get our training to the level it needs to be. A

***"LOG Warrior is better today than at anytime in my memory."***

***— Brig. Gen. Scott West,  
Quartermaster Center and  
School commandant***

level that will prepare our young warriors for combat."

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Brig. Gen. West had the chance to over see the logistical warriors at work under combat conditions while using what they learned during their time at Fort Lee and other lessons from their fellow Soldiers before deploying.

"I had many opportunities to see quartermasters throughout Iraq, most, if not all expressed great appreciation for LOG Warrior," West said.

"They recognize the value of this exercise, but most said we needed to

incorporate more field training in the various courses."

Lessons learned from OIF and OEF, such as dealing with Improvised Explosive Devices, Land Navigation, treating of heat casualties the vital importance weapons maintenance, are the base of the Warriors Ethos.

"The most dangerous element on the battlefield in Iraq is the effect of the IED," West added.

"We need to focus our training on the tactics, techniques and procedures used to detect and avoid these devices."



# As storms continue, inspect your trees

As storms continue to move through the Fort Lee area, members of the community are encouraged to inspect trees surrounding their homes and offices for signs of damage or danger, according to Tim Lawrence, a post safety specialist.

Two good sources of information are The International Society of Arboriculture home page, [www.isaarbor.com](http://www.isaarbor.com) and its associated Internet site [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com).

Thousands of trees and communities are damaged annually by heavy rains and wind.

But many can be spared from the worst damage by following a few practical suggestions from the International Society of Arboriculture.

"Recognizing and reducing tree hazards not only increases the safety of your property and that of your neighbors, but also improves the tree's health and may increase its longevity," said Jim Skiera, ISA's Executive Director.

#### Hazards to look for:

- ❑ Cracks in the trunk of major limbs;
- ❑ Hollow, aged and decayed trees;
- ❑ One-sided or significantly leaning trees;

- ❑ Branches that hang over the house near the roof;

- ❑ Close proximity of utility lines;
- ❑ Remove dead, diseased and damaged limbs;

- ❑ Consider removing trees with large cavities of decay;

- ❑ Leaning trees may indicate a root problem; have them inspected;

- ❑ Branches too close to your house, a building, or the street should be pruned to provide clearance;

- ❑ Branches that are too close or touching utility lines need to be pruned or removed. If this work is needed, do not prune the tree yourself.

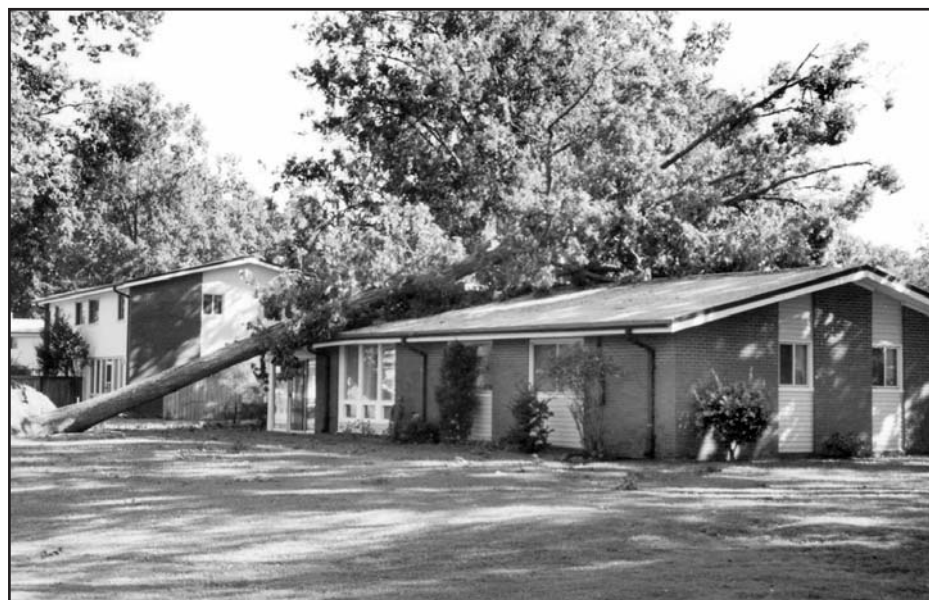
Those who live on post should contact the service order work at (804) 734-5100.

Those living off-post should contact their utility company.

Heavy rains and wind can cause trees to crack, split and even uproot. Severe storms with heavy rains can soak the soil so thoroughly that tree roots cannot stay fastened in the ground during strong winds.

Damage of this nature should also be reported to the service order work desk.

Those who reside off-post can contact a certified arborist to help



FILE PHOTO

**After Hurricane Isabel in Sept. 2003, post residents discovered more than 1,500 trees had fallen on Fort Lee. Several trees were also damaged, but did not fall during the hurricane. Since then, however, due to heavy rains and recent winds trees have begun to topple again. After each storm, trees around homes and offices should be inspected for damage. If any damage is found report it to the service order work desk at (804) 734-5100.**

determine if broken trunks and limbs should be removed or if uprooted trees can be saved or replanted.

The ISA is a nonprofit organiza-

tion supporting tree care research around the world. Headquartered in Champaign, Ill., ISA is dedicated to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees.

# 3-D models change Army medicine

by Michael E. Dukes  
Army News Service

Faced with an increase in complex head injuries, caused mostly by improvised explosive devices, surgeons turned to Walter Reed’s new 3-D Medical Applications Center for help.

With a computerized tomography scan of a patient, the center produces 3-D medical models of the shattered faces and skulls. Armed with this tool, surgeons can better analyze a patient’s injury and better plan their treatment approach.

“We were finding that the pieces were so far distracted that using these models would help us to get more precise re-approximation for the realignment of the fracture lines,” said Col. John Casler, Walter Reed’s otolaryngology consultant to the Surgeon General of the Army.

“One of the things this has allowed us to do is actually reduce the fractures on the models first; get an idea how they fit before getting to the operating room,” he explained. “It also gives us the opportunity to fit plates and reconstruction bars on the models first.

To model it perfectly on the model first, reduce the fractures with a perfectly shaped reconstruction bar and sterilize that reconstruction bar, then use it on the patient knowing that the alignment would be perfect.”

Before 3-D models, surgeons used two-dimensional CT images.

“We would use CT scans or other radiologic tools to try to get an idea of where the fractures were and how they should go back together,” Casler said. But this method wasn’t as accurate and left some guesswork or estimation.

“Some of the patients we had coming back from operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom have such severely displaced fragments that ordinary techniques were not as helpful in terms of knowing where the pieces should go when we put them back together.”

## ANTHRAX continued from Page 3

“It’s entirely up to the troops, but they need to know what’s in their blood might help other people,” he said. “Troops who receive anthrax vaccine have very valuable antibodies in their blood stream that could help others, as well as themselves.”

By donating plasma, these troops would be sharing the protection they carry around inside them, so that an anthrax-infected patient would have a better chance at surviving the infection."

The program begins today at Fort Campbell, Ky. DoD plans to add other sites in the future, based on the need and the number of available volunteers.

Servicemembers who received anthrax vaccination No. 4 or higher are eligible to participate. There are six shots in the anthrax series. There's a narrow window when they can begin to donate – between 10 and 21 days after that vaccination. “That’s when their antibody levels are the highest, and the CDC would get the most yield from the plasma,” Grabenstein said.

A civilian collection center in Clarksville, Tennessee, will gather the plasma and turn it over to the CDC.

Grabenstein said the process is just like giving blood, “except you get the cells back.”

During the process the blood flows from the donor through a needle to a collection chamber. In that chamber, a spinning centrifuge separates plasma from blood cells. The plasma is kept, and the blood cells go back into the donor’s bloodstream. The process takes about an hour and a half.



## Mortuary Affairs continues mission

# Recovery team tackles China's Himalayas

by Capt. Geoffrey Kent  
and Staff Sgt. Erika Gladhill

Army News Service

After three weeks of mountain training in Alaska and triathlon training in Hawaii, U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command recovery team members said they were "ready to execute" their mission in the Himalayas.

The JPAC recovery team departed Aug. 12 to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China, to recover the remains of three Americans lost in a C-46 crash in the Himalayan Mountains during World War II.

The site is located at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet and is only miles from the border of India. It can only be reached after trekking for four days from the nearest village.

The JPAC team trained for this mission with the Northern Warfare Training Center at Fort Greeley, Denali National Park and Mt. McKinley, Alaska, for three weeks.

This 13-member specialized team includes Army mountaineers, an Air Force pararescuer, a Marine Chinese linguist, an orthopedic surgeon, an explosive ordnance disposal expert, a special forces medic and several mortuary affairs specialists.

The team has prepared for their Tibetan mission by gaining mountaineering experience, reacting to changes in altitude, validating the team's fitness program, learning critical survival skills, familiarizing themselves with their equipment and ensuring the team was prepared for a grueling expedition and recovery into remote Tibet.

The training challenge was highlighted by the training location – the West Buttress route of Mount McKinley – where there are 80-mile-per-hour winds, sub-zero temperatures and a blistering wind chill.

To ensure team readiness, training in Alaska was designed by mountaineer instructors of the NWTCT

and tailored specifically to challenge the team members both physically and mentally.

In Alaska, team members completed two major exercises.

The first was a three-day trek through precipitous and taxing terrain at the Black Rapids Training Center at Fort Greeley, Alaska.

The second exercise was a nine-day expedition on the West Buttress route of Mount McKinley that covered 22 miles and a climb in elevation of 8,000 feet to McKinley's 14,200-foot base camp.

"After you reach about 12,000 feet your every effort becomes magnified because you spend so much effort breathing," said Maj. Karl Larsen, U.S. Air Force chief of orthopedics services, of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo.

"Everything becomes more difficult. Cold temperatures are about 10 degrees with wind, and similarly in the sunny areas temperatures can reach close to 100 degrees."

As individuals climb in varying altitudes, breathing becomes more rapid and deep. As a result of the altitude change, the body's chemistry is altered. That has a whole host of changes in the way people handle fluids, said Larsen, including changes in the acid-base balance in the body, and the process of how oxygen is transferred to the tissues.

The physiological part of it is simple in context, but complicated in application, said Larsen.

The adjustment time normally takes one to two weeks to acclimate.

A reaction to the extreme temperatures is internal swelling that can cause illness and, in its most severe form people can die from drowning in their own fluids, said Larsen.

U.S. Army Capt. Geoffrey Kent, a JPAC team leader, from Falls Church, Va., said, "What we found in Alaska is that your body will do whatever your mind tells it to do.

When you surround yourself with a team that is as motivated as the one that I've got, it makes it that much easier."

Kent said there were certainly times the team members were exhausted and in pain.

"There were times when we asked ourselves what we were doing there," Kent said. "Those feelings were lost the moment that we pulled out the POW/MIA flag at the 14,000 [foot] base camp that read, 'You Are Not Forgotten.' We owe it to too many people nothing but our very best effort. I will say one thing to the three men in Tibet that we will search for. 'We're coming for you, and we will bring you home.'"

The Alaska training was tough, Larsen said, but the JPAC team is ready for Tibet.

"This is the most prepared I've seen any team," said Larsen. "They thought this out, made a plan and stuck to it. I've been on seven remote deployments and I've never seen anyone this well trained. This is going to be a fantastic mission with an outstanding group of people put together to accomplish it."

Kent said, "We are equipped, prepared and motivated to execute this mission with the same sense of duty that these three men displayed on the day they were lost. We are confident that we will find success in Tibet."

The lost crew was transporting supplies from the Assam Valley in India over the Himalayan Mountains and into China during an operation on an air route that



ARMY PHOTO

**Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command team members hike through Denali National Park, Mount McKinley, Alaska, during a three-week training event. The recovery team departed Aug. 12 to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China to recover remains of three Americans lost in a World War II aircraft crash in the Himalayan mountains.**

became known as the "hump." During operations on the "hump" more than 600 airplanes and 1,000 crewmen were lost.

World War II cases selected by JPAC are based on analysis of intelligence, the country's political stability, weather, site accessibility, logistics and safety. This particular mission is one of the most challenging operations JPAC will attempt to conduct, officials said, adding that the excavation of the crash site will take an estimated 30-45 days to complete.

Dr. Andrew Tyrell, a recovery leader and anthropologist from London, England, said the mission presents some challenges from a scientific point of view. The site is spread across a wide area and lies on a steep slope that's covered with layers of rocks and boulders.

The environment, said Tyrell, with its variable climate and active slopes, changed the disposition of this site considerably in the time since the crash. Photographs from the initial investigations show a tight focus of wreckage and material evidence at the top of the slope that is suggestive of a point of impact.

"It is here that I anticipate the recovery process beginning," Tyrell said.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Swam, a U.S. Army team sergeant from Largo, Fla., said he is honored for the opportunity "to serve those service members who are lost and their families who wait for their return."

(Editor's note: Capt. Geoffrey Kent and Staff Sgt. Erika Gladhill serve with JPAC Public Affairs.)

## Mortuary Affairs reunion planned for Sept. 16-17

The U.S. Army Mortuary Affairs Center, is planning a reunion of Mortuary Affairs/Memorial Activities/Graves Registration specialists and former specialists. for Sept. 16-17, at Fort Lee. One of many purposes of the reunion is to recognize and honor all those who have served and those who continue to serve in this honorable profession.

Officials at the Center also envision this as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas that benefit today's Army.

Anyone interested in attending, should contact the Mortuary Affairs Center's deputy director, Doug Howard, at (804) 734-3831 or by e-mail at [howard@lee.army.mil](mailto:howard@lee.army.mil).

# 60,000 troops to return stateside over 10 years

by John D. Banusiewicz  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16, 2004 – The United States will redistribute forces now stationed at overseas locations “where the wars of the last century ended,” President Bush announced in Cincinnati today.

The president’s announcement came during an address to the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“The world has changed a great deal,” Bush said, “and our posture must change with it for the sake of our military families, for the sake of our taxpayers, and so we can be more effective at projecting our strength and spreading freedom and peace.”

America’s current force posture in Europe, Bush said, was designed to guard against Soviet aggression. “The threat no longer exists,” he said.

The decision to redistribute forces comes after three years of study and consultations, Bush said.

“We’ve consulted closely with our allies and with Congress. “We’ve examined the challenges posed by today’s threats and emerging threats.”

The result, he said, will be “a more agile and flexible force.”

As the new global posture takes shape over the next 10 years, Bush said, more U.S. troops will be stationed at, and deployed from, home bases in the United States.

“We’ll move some of our troops and capabilities to new locations so they can surge quickly to deal with unexpected threats,” Bush said.

“We’ll take advantage of 21st century military technologies to rapidly deploy increased combat power.”

The new plan, the president

said, will strengthen U.S. alliances and build new partnerships around the world, and will reduce stress on military people and their families.

“Although we’ll still have a significant presence overseas, under the plan I’m announcing today, over the next 10 years we will bring home about 60,000 to 70,000 uniformed personnel and about 100,000 family members and civilian employees.”

This, he explained, would give servicemembers more time on the home front, as well as more predictability and fewer moves over a career.

“Our military spouses will have fewer job changes, greater stability, more time for their kids and to spend time with their families at home,” he added.

Taxpayers will benefit from cost savings realized by closing obsolete overseas bases and facilities, the president said.

## U.S. military in Europe shrinking

by Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

“A significant portion” of U.S. troop moves caused by a reworking of America’s global military posture “will come from Europe,” a senior Defense Department official said here today.

Any redeployment of U.S. troops from Europe to the United States or elsewhere, the official told Pentagon reporters, will involve heavy armor and infantry units now based in Germany.

As part of the realignment of U.S. forces around the world announced earlier today by President Bush, the official noted that an Army Stryker brigade would be sent to Germany, where the official said a “very substantial” U.S. military ground presence will remain, to join a restructured 5th Corps.

The official said DoD wasn’t ready to discuss exact numbers of troops and units affected by realignments, saying that Bush’s mention of numbers would do for now.

In his morning address at the Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Cincinnati, Bush said that over the next decade, about 60,000 to 70,000 uniformed personnel, and about 100,000 family members and civilian employees would be redeployed from overseas bases to the United States.

Plans to rearrange U.S. military force posture around the world, the senior DoD official noted, have been in the works for the past three years.

Numbers of troops affected by force structure changes in the Pacific theater under the plan “won’t be very dramatic,” a senior U.S. State Department official noted at the Pentagon press briefing.

U.S. forces in South Korea already are slated to move away from the demilitarized zone and out of the capital city of Seoul to locations further south.

The State Department official emphasized that any redeployment of U.S. troops in Europe is “not aimed at Russia.”

“It’s not our goal to have a shift of our forces to the east” from Germany, the senior DoD official

explained, noting that U.S. troops would likely rotate in and out of eastern Europe to conduct joint exercises with allied nations.

Any realignments from Germany are unlikely to occur until fiscal 2006, another senior DoD official said.

The realignments, in conjunction with the upcoming base realignment and closure process, the official said, will improve America’s military power projection capabilities as well as ease the turmoil experienced by military families because of frequent change-of-station moves.

## Realignment to take place over time

by Samantha L. Quigley  
American Forces Press Service

“The first message I would pass to troops and their families is that they needn’t pack their bags,” a senior DoD official said of just-announced plans for globally realigning U.S. armed forces.

Andrew Hoehn, deputy assistant secretary of defense for strategy, reassured servicemembers and their families that changes would be slow. “This is something that’s going to take place over a period of time,” he said.

As restructuring plans progress, senior defense officials say the department will follow closely any developments. DoD has set up a special e-mail address at [gpquestions@osd.mil](mailto:gpquestions@osd.mil) for people to send in questions, and upcoming articles will work to address their concerns.

Hoehn referred to President Bush’s Aug. 16 announcement that said the government is entering a different stage of the realignment process – from consulting with allies and partners to presenting ideas to these groups more formally.

## Senior rater profile eliminated from company-grade OERs

by Joe Burlas  
Army News Service

Senior raters evaluating lieutenants, captains and warrant officers 1 and 2 will change the way they compare the rated officer with his or her peers in the active Army after Oct. 1.

Specifically, the change eliminates the use of block 7b of the Officer Evaluation Report, Department of the Army Form 67-9, for company grade officers and warrant officers 1 and 2.

The current senior rater profiling contains four ratings: above center of mass, center of mass, below center of mass retain and below center of mass do not retain.

With Human Resources Command input, it reflects where the senior rater has rated other officers of equal rank in the past and where the senior leader thinks the rated officer falls in a direct peer-to-peer comparison.

Senior rater profiling will be retained for use in rating majors and above, and warrant officers 3 and above.

“We’re getting away from that competitive peer-to-peer comparison at the company grade and lower warrant officer level to allow more leader focus on developing leaders and fostering closer unit cohesion,” said Maj. Gen. Dorian T. Anderson, Human Resources Command commanding general.

Along with the end of peer-to-peer comparison at the company level, the Army will also expand developmental plans and counseling requirements beyond junior officers to include captains and warrant officers 2 in the active Army effective Oct. 1.

Future versions of DA Form 67-9-1a, Junior Officer Developmental Support Form, will have the word “junior,” deleted to reflect the inclusion of more senior officers and warrants.

The OER enhancements will eventually be made in the Army Reserve and National Guard, but each has its own unique requirements and timeline, officials said.

“Evaluations have to do two things: provide good solid feedback to the rated individual for development and it has to provide information for the system to use to select those qualified individuals for promotion to the next higher grade,” Anderson said.

“The challenge is to find the balance between feedback for individual development and the information promotion boards need for selections, he said.

Company grade officers identified the lack of useful and ongoing feedback via OER requirements, and a “zero-defects” environment perception fostered by the OER process as major concerns during an extensive look at the Army’s methods of growing and developing leaders.

The Officer Army Training and Leader Development Panel results that identified those concerns were released in May 2001.

In 2002, the Army moved to mask, or remove to the restricted file, all lieutenant OERs once the officer reached the rank of captain in order to address part of the panel’s findings.

The decision to mask those OERs at the rank of captain was to allow junior officers more room to grow, ease the zero-defects perception and effectively remove comments from a junior officer’s file that may be a reflection of an initial learning curve, said George Piccirilli, Evaluation Systems chief.





## Johnson places 14th in Olympic air rifle competition

by Tim Hipps  
Army News Service

Spc. Hattie Johnson opened and closed her Olympic 10-meter air rifle competition with a bang Sunday, but she failed to reach the final of the first medal event in the Athens games.

"My hardest shots were my first shot and my last shot," said Johnson, who finished in a five-way tie for 14th among 44 competitors. "My hand was shaking and I put the gun up and down a few times, but I thought to myself: 'This isn't going to happen to me because I'm nervous. I'm going to hold it all together and I'm going to shoot a 10.'"

Johnson did just that on her first and final of 40 shots and scored 394 of 400 possible points in the qualification round at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre.

"After I shot my first shot, it was like a huge weight was lifted right off of me, and I was like, 'OK, let's shoot.'" Johnson said. "Of course I would've loved to make the final, but overall I had a very good performance for me."

China's Li Du, who tallied 398 points in the qualification round, won the first gold medal of Olympiad XXVIII with a final Olympic record of 502 points. Russia's Liubov Galkina, who shot an Olympic record 399 in qualifications, won the silver medal with 501.5 points. Czech Republic's Katerina Kurkova took the bronze.

Johnson, 22, a medic with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, said she left all she had on the range. "When I finished shooting I was exhausted," she said. "Every body part felt like it was sore and hurt. I had a great performance for myself mentally and physically."

Johnson was a beneficiary of competing in the opening event by getting to spend the remainder of her stay in Greece with her No. 1 fan, father Jeff Ponti, who came from her hometown, Athol, Idaho, to watch her compete abroad for the first time.

"You have no idea how proud I am," Ponti said. "How she finished is irrelevant to me. Just her getting here is absolutely unbelievable."



**Spc. Hattie Johnson**

# Tricky trigger drops Soldier to eighth place in air rifle

by Tim Hipps  
Army News Service

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker watched his world record fall Monday while shooting to an eighth-place finish in the men's 10-meter air rifle event in the Summer Olympic Games.

China's Qinan Zhu won the gold medal with a final world record of 702.7 points, eclipsing Parker's world mark of 702.5 established at the 2003 Munich World Cup.

"The scores keep going up," Parker said. "It seems like a world record is set about every year or two. It just gives you another goal to shoot for. You just have to do it on the day that counts."

China's Jie Li won the silver medal with 701.3 points. Slovakia's Josef Gonci took the bronze medal with a 697.4 total at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre.

Parker, a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., quickly shot a perfect sixth series score of 100 points in the qualification round.

"That's the only way to make the final when it's that close because that's how they break the tie," said Parker's coach, Army Reserve Maj. David Johnson of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program. "That gave him a chance."

Parker studied the scoreboard to see his name land in the final spot of the eight-marksmen final. He then notched 100.5 points in the final round to finish with a 694.5 total.

"I got in the final and didn't take advantage of it, just shot a couple of bad shots," Parker said. "But the guy who won it shot a world record so I would've had to been on it the whole match."

Parker overcame a tricky trigger that contributed to two costly 98-

point series in his qualification round. He managed 99 or 100 points in his other four stanzas.

"I had a little technical problem with my rifle," explained Parker, 30, of Omaha, Neb. "The trigger wasn't functioning quite right, but I got it fixed."

"The gun broke," said Johnson, 40, a native of Mount Holly, N.J., who lives in Colorado Springs, Colo. "I took it and ran it down the hall to the gunsmith, had it repaired, and came back. It affected him for several shots, but he did a real good job of dealing with it."

Parker already is looking forward to the 2008 Beijing Games.

"There were certain parts I thought I shot very, very good, and there were other parts that I didn't handle too good," he said. "I'm going to take those parts that I didn't handle too well, learn from them, and come back in four more years a stronger shooter."

## Szarenski frustrated with 13th in air pistol

by Tim Hipps  
Army News Service

Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski finished in a four-way tie for 13th place in the men's 10-meter air pistol event Aug. 14 at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre in the Athens Olympic Games.

Szarenski, a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., came within three points of reaching the final round of eight competitors.

"It didn't really go wrong at all, I just didn't have a high enough score," said Szarenski, 36, of Saginaw, Mich. "I finished and it was like, 'Well, it wasn't a smoker but nothing really went bad.'"

China's Yifu Wang won the gold medal with a final Olympic record of 690 points. Russia's Mikhail Nestruev, who set an Olympic qualifying record with 591 points, won the silver medal with 689.8 points. Russian Vladimir Isakov took the bronze medal with a 684.3 total.

The other American entry, Jason Turner of Rochester, N.Y., shot a score of 571 to finish in a tie for 36th place.

Szarenski shot well early in the match but he was off on just enough shots to finish with a qualifying score of 579 points. The cutoff for the final round was 582.

"I shot pretty much like I always do," he said. "There was some nervousness at the beginning, but nothing more than any other match. These are the same guys we shoot against in the World Cups and World Championships. It's not like I tried harder here than I would at a World Cup, it was just kind of a medium day and you needed a good day."

"If a couple 9.9s would've been 10.0s, look at how many points I would've picked up. To get into the medal round was well within reach. It just takes a little bit of luck sometimes and it wasn't here today."

## Army marksmen miss finals in day four of Olympics

by Tim Hipps  
Army News Service

Two Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit failed to reach the finals of their events in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games Tuesday at Markopoulo Olympic Shooting Centre.

Three-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Bret Erickson, 43, of Bennington, Neb., finished in a two-way tie for 13th place in men's double trap shotgun shooting. He scored 130 points in three qualifying rounds. The cutoff to make the six-shooter final was 135 points.

Ahmed Almaktoom of United Arab Emirates won the gold medal by equaling the Olympic final record of 189 points. He qualified for the anticlimactic final with 144 points, another Olympic standard. India's Rajyavardhan Rathore took the silver medal with 179 points. China's Zheng Wang won the bronze medal with 178.

Two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski, 36, of Saginaw, Mich., finished in a three-way tie for 15th place in men's 50-meter pistol shooting. He finished the qualification round with 554 points. The cutoff to make the eight-shooter final was 562 points.

Russia's Mikhail Nestruev won the gold medal with 663.3 points. Korea's Jong Oh Jin won the silver medal with a 661.5 total. Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Jong Su Kim took the bronze medal with 657.7 points.

In earlier competition, Erickson finished 13th in Olympic men's trap shooting Saturday and Sunday.



# AAFES, NAPSTER bring music to Soldiers

by Capt. Diane Weed  
AAFES

Napster, a division of Roxio, announced an agreement with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service that offers authorized exchange customers specially discounted rates on both its subscription service and Napster Light download store.

All branches of the United States military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard — now have access to Napster's huge catalog of legal music — more than 750,000 tracks — and community features available through the CentricMall.com Web site.

AAFES leadership expects that delivering music through the Internet will help provide the latest entertainment to troops in deployed locations.

"It is always great when AAFES can deliver another service to our customers...wherever they are," said AAFES' commander, Army Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost.

"When we learned of the demand for

digital music within the military community, particularly from overseas, we immediately dedicated resources to meeting that need," said Chris Gorog, chairman and CEO of Roxio and Napster.

"Whether our military personnel are working on a base overseas or here in the United States, whether they are on active duty or in the reserves, all members of the armed forces and their families can now securely and safely access their favorite music when they want it, wherever they are in the world," he added.

Napster is the first digital product to be offered on *CentricMall.com*, a password-protected Web site featuring more than 40 online vendors that can be accessed only by authorized exchange customers.

Authorized customers can also access the Napster service through the Exchange Online Store, an online destination featuring more than 25,000 items from multiple vendors.

Military customers can access the Centric Mall service through

[www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), [www.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.usmc-mccs.org), [www.navy-nex.com](http://www.navy-nex.com) or go directly to [www.centricmall.com](http://www.centricmall.com).

In addition to Napster's regular payment methods, the service accepts the "Military Star Card" credit card to facilitate *CentricMall.com* customer transactions.

## Understanding AAFES

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, and is directed by a Board of Directors who are responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through Service Chiefs of Staff.

AAFES has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and of generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

Learn more at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com).

## Bull riders promote Army

by Cpl. Matt Millham  
Army News Service

The Army is sponsoring a rodeo team of seven cowboys and a cowgirl, as part of a partnership with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Earlier this year, the Army announced a partnership with the Professional Bull Riders and began sponsoring a separate team of three cowboys April 17.

The Army is now sponsoring participants in hundreds of rodeos throughout the United States and Canada.

The partnership with PRCA will allow the Army to reach out to a segment of Americans "that we were certain we were missing," said Maj. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, commander of U.S. Army Recruiting Command.





PHOTO BY SPC. JASON B. CUTSHAW

## Bobbing along. . .

Spc. Matthew Hale, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, fills his uniform top with air during a water survival course Aug. 12 at Hartman Pool.

In addition to training, the pool is also open to lap swimmers Monday - Friday, 6-8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For information on scheduling the pool call (804) 734-6198.

## Classic comedy opens Sept. 10 "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying"

The Lee Playhouse will open the classic comedy "How to Succeed at Business Without Really Trying" Sept. 10.

Using a quirky self-help book, "How to succeed in Business," a bright-eyed, eager young window washer climbs to the top of the corporate heap, leaving funny confusion in his wake.

Along the way he falls in love, gets an executive posted to Venezuela, establishes a treasure in stocks, gets corporate building wrecked and becomes chairman of the board.

Great songs such as "I Believe in You,"

"It's Been a Long Day", A Secretary is Not a Toy and "The Brotherhood of Man" abound in this terrific comedy.

The 22-member cast includes principal roles played by Charles Wissenger as Mr. Finch, Mike White as Mr. Biggley, Elliott Law as Bud Frump, and Jeffifer Thomas as Hedy LaRue.

The play will premier Sept. 10, will follow-on performances Sept. 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 8 p.m.

Two Sunday performances, Sept. 19, 3 p.m. and Sept. 26, 3 p.m. are also scheduled.

## Army 10-miler run registration window closing fast

As of Tuesday 18,162 registrations of the 20,000 available for the Army 10-Miler run in Washington D.C. had been filled.

Mail in registrations must have been mailed by Monday, registrations received with a post mark of Sept. 17 or later will be returned to the sender.

Online entries remain open. The online deadline is Sept. 17, 5 p.m. for the Oct. 24 run, but at the current rate, the positions will be filled

by the end of August.

Runners can register for the run and many other individual and team sporting events at

It will be the 20th year of America's largest 10-mile race. The run begins at the Pentagon, winds through Washington, D.C., and returns to the headquarters of the U.S. military.

—Information compiled from Army News Service and [www.armytenmiler.com](http://www.armytenmiler.com)



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS PAUL SWEENEY

Runners take off from in front of the Fort Lee U.S. Army Garrison headquarters' building at the start of a qualifying run for the Army 10-miler race. The Oct. 24 run winds through Washington D.C.



Having an organizational gathering? Rent the log cabin, a large picnic pavilion, one of their giant grills, coolers, dunk booths, canopies, volleyball and whatever else you need to have a successful outing.

For information, call (804) 765-2212,  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.



MWR Rental Center





PHOTO BY SFC 1ST CLASS PAUL SWEENEY

Competitors at the U.S. Navy Amphibious Base Little Creek Mud Run pull themselves over a wall after exiting one of the runs mud pits. About 50 people from Fort Lee participated in the Saturday morning run, according to the race's director, Ann Hutt.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

An Air Force Alpine winter recreation program is open to all service members and their families



U.S. NAVY PHOTO

A Navy Morale Welfare and Recreation white water raft trip in Georgia is open to all service members. By looking at other military services' recreation programs Soldiers can often expand their choice of activities.



PHOTO BY SFC 1ST CLASS PAUL SWEENEY

Brian Mathienson, Fort Lee comes in from a 10-mile run while training for the Army 10-miler.



PHOTO BY SFC 1ST CLASS PAUL SWEENEY

Competitors show their fatigue as they hit a mud pit half-way through the Little Creek Mud Run Saturday morning. One of the best things extreme sports enthusiasts can do for themselves is get a partner who's interested in the same sports, according to Jimmie Faye Lundie, Fort Lee Safety chief, because it's one of the best ways to stay motivated, and more importantly alert when fatigue starts to set in.

## Staying alive in extreme sports

by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Sweeney  
PAO NCOIC/Managing Editor

As technology makes the world a safer place more and more people are attracted to extreme sports. And the younger and more fit they are, the more they seem to be attracted, said Jimmie Faye Lundie, Fort Lee Safety chief.

"Which means we've got a lot of Soldiers out there playing hard," she added. "They're young, their fit and they like adrenaline."

"Soldiers think of themselves as tougher, stronger and more determined than the rest of the world," Lundie said. "And for the most part they are, but sometimes that attitude can lead them to under estimate the challenge they've put themselves up against."

"It's real easy to do," said Spc. Shawn Walbeck, 217th Military Police Detachment. "I trained hard for the last Fort Lee triathlon. The only problem was I only trained for the run and the bike, I'm a natural swimmer. But by the third lap I thought I was going to drown, the only thing that got me through was my competitive nature."

One issue young people also overlook is the logistics that go with extreme sports, Lundie said. "Kayacking, super marathons, mud runs, triathlons, Alpine skiing, they all normally require very early mornings and long drives."

"There's a reason why these events are called extreme," she said. "Your body is going to be wiped out when your done. Before you get back in your car and head home, give your body a chance to recover."

"If your legs feel like rubber your reaction time is going to double or triple when you try to brake suddenly. A recovery time can also help keep you from falling asleep at the wheel."

One of the best ways to avoid injury, Lundie said, is to seek out qualified instructors in the extreme sport of your choice.

"But remember, certified doesn't mean qualified," she added. "Do the research, find out who certified the instructor and what their reputation is. The same goes for 'sanctioned' events."

"One last thought," Lundie said. "Despite the interest in extreme sports, the leading cause of injuries in the Army is still pick-up basketball games."



## Student enrollment requires documentation

Parents and guardians who wish to enroll a child in a Prince George school will require the following documentation:

- ✓ Certified state issued birth certificate
- ✓ Comprehensive physical examination (K-5 only)
- ✓ Immunization record
- ✓ Social Security number
- ✓ Proof of residency
- ✓ Court issued custody papers (if applicable)
- ✓ Previous school records

Parents must produce all required documentation before a student may attend classes.

Most schools in Virginia have similar requirements to those listed above and clarified as followed. Parents are advised to check with schools other than Prince George as soon as possible for local variations to these guidelines.

### Clarification of Documentation

**Certified State Birth Certificate**

1. A certified copy is acceptable
2. If a parent cannot produce a birth certificate, a notarized affidavit may be accepted to complete enrollment until the birth certificate can be produced.
3. Birth certificates cannot be copied. The file number should be recorded at the time of registration.

### Comprehensive Physical Examination

1. Parents of children entering a elementary school for the first time in Virginia must furnish a report of

comprehensive physical examination conducted no earlier than 12 months prior to the date of enrollment.

2. Fort Lee Exception: A student may enroll if the parent furnishes written documentation that an appointment has been scheduled for the physical (such as, appointment card, written note on physical letterhead, etc.)

### Immunization Record

1. Note Attachment A for required immunizations.
2. Immunization record should appear on the third page of the school entrance health form signed by a physician.
3. Fort Lee Exception: A complete immunization record (such as immunization card) will be accepted for enrollment, if the parent furnished evidence that an appointment for a physical has been scheduled. The record must show that all required immunizations have been completed.

A copy of this record should be kept in the student's file until the completed School Entrance Form has been submitted.

4. Grades 6 - 12: A complete immunization record must be furnished. The record must show that all required immunizations have been completed, including date that immunizations were administered.

### Social Security Number

1. Original Social Security card should be furnished.

### Proof of Residency

### Schools serving Fort Lee

Several schools, public and parochial, are located close to Fort Lee.

The Prince George County School System has been designated as the agency responsible for the education of family members residing on Fort Lee.

In order to register for school, all children must have proof of a physical and immunizations and parents must also provide proof of their residence, on-post residents can obtain a memorandum from the Fort Lee Housing Office.

School bus service is provided for children attending Prince George schools, with stops at designated locations within the housing areas.

Prince George schools also provide bus services for temporary housing on post, and the Youth Center and Child Development Center for Before and After School Care.

1. Copy of lease or rental agreement with current address and parent/guardian name.
2. Copy of deed with current address and parent/guardian name.
3. Real estate tax receipt with current address and parent/guardian name.
4. Military housing document (SBO-0121-0898)

See **REQUIRED** on Page 3

### Emergency School Closing

In case of emergency school closing the following will carry school announcements: Closures will also be listed on school Web sites as listed on this page

#### Television Stations

Channels 6, 8, 12

#### Radio Stations

K-95.3FM  
1140AM  
Q94.5FM  
XL102.1FM  
88.9FM  
106.5 FM



### Translation services for transcripts

Military Families who need help translating their child's school transcript from or to another language can get assistance from the Fort Lee School Liaison Officer by calling (804) 765-3857 or sending an e-mail to [nickelsonl@lee.army.mil](mailto:nickelsonl@lee.army.mil).

Assistance is also available for more than 100 languages from Army One Sources Toll Free number 1-800-464-8107.

**School Physicals at Kenner**  
**Call Toll Free 1-866-645-4584**

### Special Needs Education POCs

**Prince George**  
Canice Razlaff  
(804) 733-2700  
**Petersburg**  
Dr. Christian Silas  
(804) 861- 4563  
**Hopewell**  
Dr. Shelia Bailey  
(804) 541-6400  
**Colonial Heights**  
Don Schmidt  
(804) 524-3445  
**Dinwiddie**  
Shirley Cashwell  
(804) 469-4190  
**Chesterfield**  
Jackie Wilson  
(804) 560-2732



Information and articles inside this special pullout was provided by the Fort Lee school liaison.

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### Education Web sites

#### Fort Lee Morale Welfare and Recreation

[WWW.LEEMWR.COM/CYSD/SLOHTML](http://WWW.LEEMWR.COM/CYSD/SLOHTML)

#### Prince George Public Schools

[www.pgs.k12.va.us](http://www.pgs.k12.va.us)

#### Colonial Heights Public Schools

[www.colonialhts.net/](http://www.colonialhts.net/)

#### Dinwiddie County Public Schools

[www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/](http://www.dinwiddie.k12.va.us/)

#### Hopewell City Public Schools

[www.hopewell.k12.va.us/](http://www.hopewell.k12.va.us/)

#### Petersburg City Public Schools

[www.ppsk12.com/schools.htm](http://www.ppsk12.com/schools.htm)

#### Chesterfield County Public Schools

[http://chesterfield.k12.va.us/htm/ccps\\_pages/ccps.htm](http://chesterfield.k12.va.us/htm/ccps_pages/ccps.htm)

#### U. S. Department of Education

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

#### Environmental Organization

[www.ea.org](http://www.ea.org)

#### Virginia Department of Education

[www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE)

#### Va Dept of Education for Parents

[www.nclb.gov/next/parentsguide.pdf](http://www.nclb.gov/next/parentsguide.pdf)

#### No Child Left Behind

[www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Parents/index.html](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Parents/index.html)

#### Standard of Learning

[www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Superintendent/Sols/home.shtml](http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Superintendent/Sols/home.shtml)

#### Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center

[www.peatc.org/](http://www.peatc.org/)

#### Home Educators Association of Virginia

[www.heav.org/index1.html](http://www.heav.org/index1.html)

#### Military Child Education Coalition

[www.militarychild.org/SETS-MOA.cfm](http://www.militarychild.org/SETS-MOA.cfm)





# Safety tips for bus riders

## Walking to the Bus Stop

□ Always walk on the sidewalk to the bus stop, never run. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side facing traffic.

□ Go to the bus stop about five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. While at the bus stop, wait quietly in a safe place well away from the road. Do not run and play while waiting.

## Getting On and Off the Bus

□ Enter the bus in line with younger students in front. Hold the handrail while going up and down the stairs.

□ When entering the bus, go directly to a seat. Remain seated and face forward during the entire ride.

## Riding the Bus

□ Always speak quietly on the bus so the driver is not be distracted. Always be silent when a bus comes to a railroad crossing so the driver can hear if a train is coming.

□ Never throw things on the bus or out the windows. Keep the aisles clear at all times. Feet should be directly in front of you on the floor and book bags should be kept on your lap. Large instruments or sports equipment should not block the aisle or emergency exits.

□ Never play with the emergency exits. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.

□ Hands should be kept to yourself at all times while riding on the bus. Fighting and picking on others creates a dangerous bus ride.

## Exiting the Bus

□ If you leave something on the bus, never return to the bus to get it. The driver may not see you come back, and she may begin driving the bus. Make sure that drawstrings and other loose objects are secure before getting off the bus so that they do not get caught on the handrail or the door.

□ Respect the "Danger Zone" which surrounds all sides of the bus. The "Danger Zone" is 10 feet wide on all sides of the bus. Always remain 10 steps away from the bus to be out of the "Danger Zone" and where the driver can see you.

□ Always cross the street in front of the bus. Never go behind the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you attempt to pick it up, so they will know.

□ Never speak to strangers at the bus stop and never get into the car with a stranger. Always go straight home and tell you parents if a stranger tries to talk to you or pick you up.



# Keeping your child safe

## Getting Ready for School

□ Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag so that they won't drop things along the way.

□ Have them wear bright, contrasting colors so they will be more easily seen by drivers.

□ Make sure they leave home on time so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due.

## Walking to the Bus Stop

□ Walk your young child to the bus stop and have older children walk in groups.

□ Practice good pedestrian behavior: walk on the sidewalk, if there is no sidewalk, stay out of the street.

□ If you must walk in the street, walk single file, face traffic and stay as close to the edge of the road as you can.

□ Stop and look left, right and then left again if you must cross the street. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions so your child knows you are looking left, right and left.

## Waiting at the bus stop

□ Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.

□ Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus.

## Getting On and Off the Bus

□ Warn children that, if they drop something, they should never pick it up.

Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions.

□ Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus. Drivers in a hurry sometimes try to sneak by busses on the right.



# Transitioning tips for new students

These 10 tips will help your child make a smooth transition to your new school.

1. Make it a team effort. If you're choosing among a few schools, talk with your child about what each school has to offer.

When it comes time to select specific classes, make sure your child is part of the process.

2. Keep a positive focus. As the first day draws near, begin talking to your child about his expectations, hopes and fears for the upcoming school year.

Reassure him that other children are having the same feelings and that he's sure to have a great year.

Present school as a place where he'll learn new things and make friends.

3. Encourage school involvement. Though you don't want your teenager to become over-committed, it's important to encourage participation in one or two activities that particularly interest him.

He's more likely to be engaged academically if he feels connected through a school activity, club or sport.

Talk to him about his goals for the school year and how he might like to be involved in school outside of the classroom.

4. Early to bed, early to rise. If your child has enjoyed a vacation of late nights and lazy mornings, getting him up for school on the first day can be difficult.

## Fort Lee School Bus Schedule

### Harrison Elementary School School Opens 9 a.m.

**BUS NO. 15: Start Time: 8 a.m.**

Bus Stops: Youth Center, 25, Child Development Center 24

**BUS NO. 16: Start Time 8 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 16, 14, 7, 6

**BUS NO. 21: Start Time 8 a.m.,**

Bus Stops: 15, 17, 13, 22,

**BUS NO. 29: Start Time 8 05 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 29, 18, 8

**BUS NO. 30: Start Time 8 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 4, Youth Center

**BUS NO. 33: Start Time 8 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 5, 19

**BUS NO. 62: Start Time 8 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 23, 18, James Child Development Center Van at Prince George Education Center

**BUS NO. 76: Start Time 8:05 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 3

**BUS NO. 79: Start Time 8:10 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 26, 2

**BUS NO. 87: Start Time 8:15 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 20, 30

**BUS NO. 87: Start Time 8:15 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 20, 30

**BUS NO. 94: Start Time 8:15 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 27, 28



### South Elementary School School Opens 9 a.m.

**BUS NO. 82: Start Time 8:05 a.m.**

Bus Stops: Youth Center, 10, 11

**BUS NO. 83: Start Time 8 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 12, Prince George Dr.(Charleston Est.)

**BUS NO. 91: Start Time 8:05 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 9, 10 (Ewell Court., 542, 553, 600, 601, 602, 610, 633), Child Development Center, 8

### Walton Elementary School School Opens 9 a.m.

**BUS NO. 36: Start Time 8:20 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 46, 45, 47, 44, 43, 42, 41, Child Development Center, Youth Center

**BUS NO. 47: Start Time 8:10 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 38, 33, 34, 31, 32, 8

**BUS NO. 61: Start Time 8:07 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 39, 40, 35, 36, 37

### J. E. J. Moore Middle School School Opens 7:40 a.m.

**BUS NO. 15: Start Time 6:50 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 15, 17, 13, 22, 7, 14, 16, Youth Center

**BUS NO. 36: Start Time 7 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 25, 24, 23, 26, 27, 29, 15, 17

(This bus also stops at N.B. Clements Jr. High School.

**BUS NO. 61: Start Time 6:45 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 9, 10, 11, 12, 8 - Clements only

(This bus also stops at Prince George High School and N.B. Clements Jr. High School).

**BUS NO. 76: Start Time 6:55 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 2, 3, 19, 5, 8

**BUS NO. 82: Start Time 6:45 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 9, 10, 11, 12, 46, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 45, 40, 38, 33, 37, 36, 39

**BUS NO. 83: Start Time 6:55 a.m.**

Bus Stops: 20, 4, 18, 28

See **TRANSITION** on Page 3

See **SCHEDULE** on Page 3

SCHEDULE from Page 2

N.B. Clements Jr. High School  
School Opens 7:40 a.m.

**BUS NO. 16: Start Time 7 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 2, 3, 4, 5  
**BUS NO. 30: Start Time 6:50 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 26, 28, 25, 24, 20, 19, 6, 7, 14, 13, 17, 15, 18, 22, 16  
**BUS NO. 36: Start Time 7 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 25, 24, 23, 26, 27, 29, 15, 17  
(This bus also stops at J.E.J. Moore Middle School).  
**BUS NO. 37: Start Time 6:55 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 44, 47, 42, 35, 37, 36, 40, 33, 31, 30, 26, 27, 28, 43, 45, 39  
**BUS NO. 61: Start Time 6:45 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 9, 10, 11, 12, 8 - Clements only  
(This bus also stops at Prince George High School, and J.E.J. Moore Middle School.)

Prince George High School  
School Opens 7:40 a.m.

**BUS NO. 5: Start Time 7 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 18, 15, 17, 13, 22, 19, 5, 6, 7, 14, 16  
**BUS NO. 61: Start Time 6:45 a.m.**  
(This bus also stops at N.B. Clements Jr. High School and J.E.J. Moore Middle School).  
Bus Stops: 9, 10, 11, 12, 8 - Clements only  
**BUS NO. 44: Start Time 7 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 8, 2, 3, 20, 4  
**BUS NO. 74: Start Time 6:50 a.m.**  
Bus Stops: 46, 45, 40, 36, 37, 32, 31, 34, 47, 44, 43, 42, 41, 35, 30, 25, 24, 23, 26, 27, 28,29



REQUIRED from Page 2

5. If the parent indicates they are residing with someone, Form SBO-0121-0898 must be completed. The person with whom they are residing must furnish a, b, or c listed above.

6. If the parent indicates they are renting/leasing but do not have a written rental/leasing agreement, Form SBO-0121-0898 must be completed by the Landlord. Line 8 must have a signature.

7. If the family is waiting for a home to be completed or military housing, they must contact Robin Gay at the School Board Office to obtain permission for the children to be

TRANSITION from Page 2

Help make this transition easier by starting his school-year sleep routine a week or two in advance.

5. Take a trial run. Take some time before the start of school to make sure you and your child know where to go and what to do on that first morning.

Show your child where the bus stop is, or, if he walks, map out the safest route to school, avoiding vacant lots and places where there aren't a lot of people.

Warn your child to always walk with a friend and scout out safe houses to go to in case of emergency.

If you can find out what classroom your child will be in, visit the classroom ahead of time so he knows exactly where to go in the morning.

You may even want to call the school in advance to find out about any special first-day procedures.

6. Stock up on supplies. On or before the first day of school, make sure you or your child finds out what school supplies and materials are required.

Most schools should provide a handy list for the younger grades, but if not, take it upon yourself to ask and then purchase them as soon

enrolled (see Policy 912).

**Custody**

1. Court Order
2. Divorce decree that states either full custody awarded to one parent or joint custody
3. Petition for custody: Follow-up is necessary after the scheduled court date to determine if custody was awarded to the petitioner.
4. Power of Attorney is not acceptable.
5. Fort Lee Exception: A power of attorney is accepted if a single parent is sent out on TDY.

as possible.

Middle and high school students should be sure to take along a notebook and pen or pencil on the first day.

7. Prepare the night before. To avoid the morning rush, organize what you can the night before.

Lay out clothes, make a lunch and assemble any supplies your child may need.

Be sure to get everyone up extra early so you'll have plenty of time to calmly get ready and get out the door on time.

8. Get a healthy start. Encourage your child to eat a good breakfast and pack a healthy snack to help him get through the day.

9. Accompany your little one.

Even if your elementary-school child will be regularly riding the bus or walking to school, you may want to take him yourself on the first day, particularly if he seems nervous.

10. Introduce yourselves. Young children are often shy with a new teacher.

If you take your child to school on the first day, you might want to go into the classroom and introduce your child to the teacher. Let the teacher know about any special interests or challenges that your child has.



# Required Immunizations for Virginia Schools

**TRICARE School Physicals** (Needed prior to registering when transferring or initial enrollment)  
Toll Free 1-866-645-4584

## Kindergarten

- 3 DPT (One after fourth birthday)
- 3 OPV (One after fourth birthday)
- 2 MMR (First must be after 1st birthday)
- 3 HEP B
- 1 Varcilles (Chicken Pox) after 12 months. Not necessary if proof of disease documented by doctor.
- 1 Hib

## First Grade

Same as kindergarten

## Second Grade

- 3 DPT (One after fourth birthday)
- 3 OPV (One after fourth birthday)
- 2 MMR (First must be after first birthday)
- 3 HEP B
- 1 Hib

## Third Grade

Same as Second Grade

## Fourth Grade

- 3 DPT (One after fourth birthday)
- 3 OPV (One after fourth birthday)
- 2 MMR (First must be after first birthday)
- 1 Hib

## Fifth Grade

Same as Fourth Grade

## Sixth Seventh and Eighth Grade

- 3 DPT (One after fourth birthday)
- 3 OPV (One after fourth birthday)
- 2 MMR (First must be after first birthday)
- 3 HEP B

## Ninth through 12th Grade

- 3 DPT (One after fourth birthday)
- 3 OPV (One after fourth birthday)
- 2 MMR (First must be after first birthday)



## Local School Numbers

Fort Lee has a school liaison officer to assist parents with any questions or concerns they may have about local public schools Kindergarten through 12th.

The school liaison officer also acts as a point of contact for the home schools and general information and questions relating to such things as registration, bus routes and school policies.

### Fort Lee School Liaison Officer

Building 10612  
1100 Lee Ave, Suite 119  
Fort Lee, Va 23801-1720  
(804) 765-3857  
FAX: (804) 765-3846

### Public Schools Serving Fort Lee

Prince George County School District  
(804) 733-2700

### Grades K-5

Harrison Elementary School  
(804) 991-2242  
South Elementary School  
(804) 733-2755  
Walton Elementary School  
(804) 733-2750  
L.L Beasley Elementary  
(804) 733-2745  
North Elementary  
(804) 458-8922

### Grades 6-7

J.E.J. Moore Middle School  
(804) 733-2740

### Grades 8-9

N.B. Clements Jr. High School  
(804) 733-2730  
Prince George High School  
(804) 733-2720

## Other School Districts

Family members of military personnel residing off post will enroll for the school in the area they live in.

### Chesterfield County Schools

(804) 748-1405

### Colonial Heights City Schools

(804) 526-0811

### Hopewell City Schools

(804) 541-6400

### Petersburg City Schools

(804) 732-0510

### Dinwiddie County Schools

(804) 469-4190

# Schools' Orientation Days

## Prince George County Schools

<b>Beazley Elementary</b>	<b>Sept. 2</b>
Kindergarten	10 a.m.
Grades 1 – 5	11:30 a.m.
<b>Harrison Elementary</b>	<b>Sept. 2</b>
Kindergarten	9 a.m.
Grades 1 & 2	10:30 a.m.
Grades 3 – 5	noon.
<b>North Elementary</b>	<b>Sept. 1</b>
Pre-K	9 a.m.
	<b>Sept. 2</b>
Kindergarten	9 a.m.
Grades 1 – 5	noon
<b>South Elementary</b>	<b>Sept. 2</b>
Kindergarten	9 a.m.
Grades 1 – 5	noon
<b>Walton Elementary</b>	<b>Sept. 2</b>
Kindergarten	9 a.m.
Grades 1 & 2	11 a.m.
Grades 3 – 5	noon
<b>Moore Middle</b>	<b>Sept. 3</b>
	10:30 a.m.
<b>Clements Jr. High</b>	<b>Sept. 3</b>
	8:30 a.m.
<b>PG High School</b>	<b>Aug. 31</b>
	7 p.m.

## Petersburg City Schools

Headstart	Aug. 27
Pre-K and Kindergarten	Aug. 31
<b>Call for times</b>	
<b>(804) 732-0510</b>	

## Colonial Heights

<b>North Elementary School</b>	<b>Sept. 3</b>
3201 Dale Ave.	
Kindergarten	10 - 11:30 a.m.
Elementary	9 - 10 a.m.
<b>Tussing Elementary School</b>	<b>Sept. 3</b>
5501 Conduit Rd.	
Kindergarten	10 - 11:30 a.m.
Elementary	9 - 10 a.m.
<b>Col. Heights Middle School</b>	<b>Sept. 2</b>
3600 Conduit Rd.	
Grades 6 - 8 New Students	1- 3 p.m.
<b>Col. Heights High School</b>	<b>Sept. 3</b>
3600 Conduit Rd.	
9th Grade Students Only	Call for time

## Hopewell

<b>Virginia Preschool</b>	<b>Sept 2,</b>
Preschool	10:a.m.
Head Start	Sept. 2
	9: a.m.
<b>Harry E. James Elementary</b>	<b>Sept. 2</b>
(Kindergarten -	5:30 -6:30 p.m.
Grades 1-5 -	6:30 -7:30 p.m.
<b>Patrick Copeland Elementary</b>	<b>Sept. 2</b>
Kindergarten Orientation	4:30 p.m.
Grade 1-5open house	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Teachers will be in their classrooms to meet par-	
ents and students.	

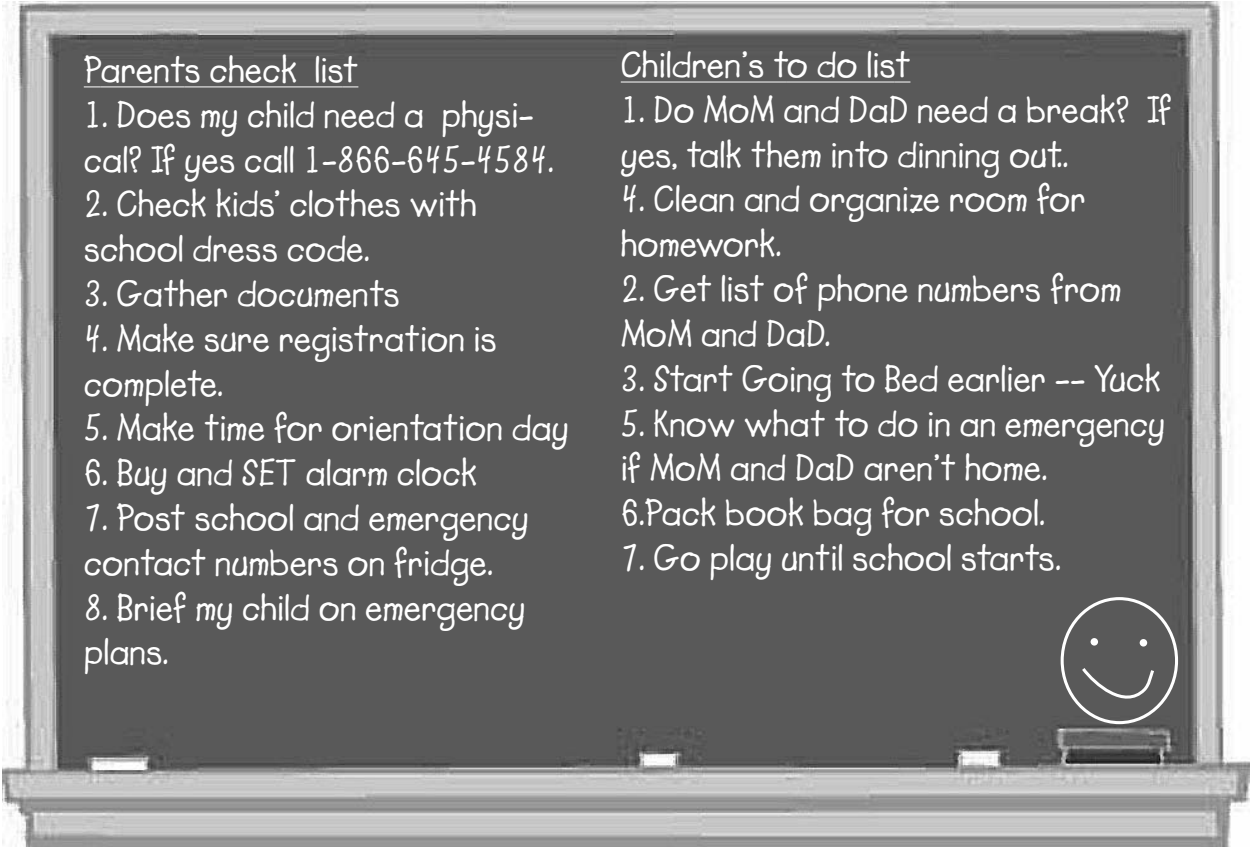
## Dinwiddie County Schools

Meet the Teacher Day will be held at all elementary schools, as well as Grades 7 and 8 on Sept. 2, noon – 7 p.m. Sixth Grade Open House will be Sept. 1, noon-7 p.m. High School

9th grade Orientation and Open House will be in the Dinwiddie County High School Auditorium Aug. 30, 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
**Dinwiddie Elementary K-5**  
13811 Boydton Plank Rd.  
**Midway Elementary School K-5**  
5511 Midway Rd.  
**Rohoic Elementary School K-5**  
23312 Airport St.  
**Southside Elementary School K-5**  
10305 Boydton Plank Rd.  
**Sunnyside Elementary School K-5**  
10203 Sunnyside Rd.  
**Dinwiddie Middle School 6-8**  
12318 Boydton Plank Rd.  
**Dinwiddie High School 9-12**  
11608 Courthouse Rd.







## Standards of Learning ensure good education

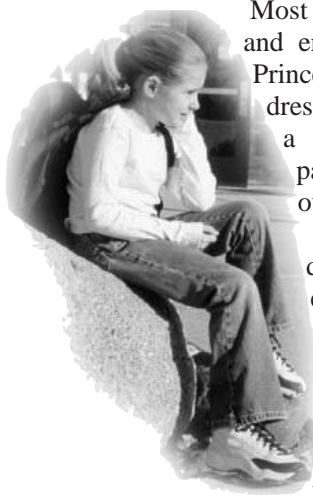
The Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools describe the commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement in grades Kindergarten through 12th in English, mathematics, science, history/social science, technology, the fine arts, foreign language, health and physical education, and driver education.

These standards represent a broad consensus of what parents, classroom teachers, school administrators, academics, and business and community leaders believe schools should teach and students should learn.

In the four core areas of English, mathematics, science, and history/social science, a curriculum framework also is provided that details the specific knowledge and skills students must possess to meet the standards for these subjects.

Standards of Learning currently in effect are listed on the Virginia Department of Education home page. School children are tested annually to ensure their education meets the state SOL requirements.

# Dress codes keep children’s attention on school



Most Virginia schools have and enforce dress codes. The Prince George School District dress code, printed below, is a good example of what parents will find throughout the local area.

Being familiar with the dress codes can help parents avoid spending money on clothing unsuitable for classes according to the districts and prevent parents from making an unscheduled trip to their child’s school with a change of clothing.

For more information on dress codes visit your child’s school home page as listed on Page one or call your child’s school, numbers listed on Page 4.

## Dress Code Violations

Students in violation of the dress code will be required to change their dress to meet the established expectations or they will be sent home. Offenders who have repeated violations will receive progressive disciplinary measures (such as after school detention, Saturday school, and suspensions).

## Prince George dress codes

1. Shorts may be worn in grades Kindergarten through 12th during the normal school day throughout the regularly calendar school year provided that they do not distract from or interfere with the orderly process of instruction. The length of other articles of

clothing such as skirts, dresses, and etc. should be of similar length.

2. Shoes or sandals must be worn for health and safety reasons.

3. In the interest of safety and/or health, the school may require specific dress or grooming for certain activities (such as shop, physical education, driver training, etc.) in which a particular danger may exist.

4. Students acting as official representatives of the school in the band, on athletic teams or any other organization may be required to subscribe to an appropriate code of dress and grooming as determined by the nature of the school sponsored events.

5. Hats, caps and head coverings will not be worn inside school buildings.

## Prohibited clothing items

- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Head coverings (i.e. sweat bands, bandannas, hats)
- ☐ Rakes, combs, picks, curlers, rollers, and other grooming articles
- ☐ Pajamas and bedroom slippers or exposed undergarments
- ☐ See-through/sheer clothing, tank tops, tube tops, halter tops, muscle shirts, oversized armholes, spaghetti straps, and plunging necklines or those that otherwise reveal excessive cleavage
- ☐ Clothing bearing profane, obscene, lewd, vulgar, illegal, and racially/ethnically offensive illustrations, emblems, or statements
- ☐ Garments promoting the use of illegal substances, including alcohol and tobacco
- ☐ Tears or holes in clothing above the knees
- ☐ Items of clothing which may be considered as weapons including studded jewelry and wallet chains

of more than 12 inches

☐ Clothing associated with gangs or gang membership

☐ Bottoms that are excessively long and/or unhemmed posing a safety hazard

## Secondary Schools

Prince George County secondary schools are institutions that are not only devoted to the business of education but to the proper training in appropriate social skill and employable characteristics.

Based on this belief, the dress code requires the appropriate appearance and self-respect necessary to foster a positive learning environment.

Grooming and dress that is hazardous to the health and safety of the student or to that of his associates, or is disruptive to instruction or good order and discipline in the school shall not be permitted.

The following regulations and stipulations are in effect for Prince George students:

- ☐ Shoulders must be completely covered.
- ☐ The bottom of the shirt, blouse, or other top must overlap or be tucked into the pants, shorts, skirts etc., worn so that the midriff, belly, and/or undergarments are not exposed.
- ☐ Pants will be worn at the waist.
- ☐ Shorts/shorts may be worn at a length no shorter than mid-thigh.
- ☐ Dresses and skirts must be at least mid-thigh in length. Students are not allowed to wear dresses or skirts with splits which goes higher than mid-thigh.
- ☐ A principal or his designee may require a student to remove any item of outer clothing that could readily conceal a weapon while in school.
- ☐ Shoes or sandals must be worn for health and safe-



# Parents, teachers: Caution children about war news

by **Rudi Williams**  
American Forces Press Service

Parents and educators must warn children they can’t believe everything they see on TV, a Fox News Channel commentator said recently at the Military Child Education Coalition’s annual convention in Colorado Springs, Colo.

John Gibson, host of “The Big Story with John Gibson,” an hour-long news-analysis program, made his comments to the more than 400 attendees at the conference’s closing session.

The commentator said there’s a problem with news coverage of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“You have to bear in mind (that) in most cases there is an agenda from the news, from news managers, from news executives,” he explained. “They try to hide it. They say there isn’t, but there is.”

He also admitted that reporters often report thing erroneously. Gibson called it “the collateral damage of the news business.”

If, for instance, kids hear about an improvised explosive device going off and some soldiers getting killed, children with a deployed parent might get kind of panicked about that.

“You have to caution them that these early reports can be wrong,” he said. “You must understand that news is the

first draft of history, and there are many drafts to come.”

Gibson also warned the audience about children watching and listening to the “non-news media,” entertainers who make outrageous claims in their work.

He used the statement that President Bush brought down the World Trade Center twin towers as an example of such outrageous claims.

Gibson shared some of his experiences in covering the U.S. military.

He recalled traveling to Mombassa, Kenya, several years ago for NBC News to cover U.S. troops delivering food to the country’s starving population.

What caught his attention most, he said, was that there was an American at every phone booth on the big base from which the food was being distributed. “There was some American military person standing there and talking to home about car payments, kids in school, bills, roof leaks, plumbing that doesn’t work and the bathroom overflowed,” Gibson told the audience. “You just looked at it and your heart broke.

“They are doing a really good job in a really hostile environment ... and they’ve still got to deal with these issues that are hard enough to deal with when you’re home.”

Gibson said reporters had been told

not to use their satellite phones more than necessary because they cost an exorbitant amount to operate.

Still, one night in his hotel he felt compelled to let five “dusty, bedraggled, tired-looking American Marines” use his phone to call home.

Gibson sat down and watched each of them call home and talk for about a half hour.

“It was all ‘Yeah honey, I do love you. Now:

What about the car?

What about the kids?

What about the school?

What about the insurance?

What about the house?

What about the roof?

What about the dog?’” he recalled.

Gibson said all he had to do was write his story, and when his wife called, he normally just had to say, “Okay, fine,” about everything.

“These guys have got people shooting at them and they have to make decisions about shooting people,” he said. “They are living on (meals, ready to eat). They are in these tents with scorpions crawling all over them, and

**“You have to bear in mind (that) in most cases there is an agenda from the news, from news managers, from news executives.”**

— *John Gibson, host of “The Big Story with John Gibson”*

this is what they’ve got to deal with? I really felt bad about it.”

Gibson said over the years he has thought about the plight of military personnel and their families, particularly National Guard and reserve families.

“I begin to see these stories about National Guard families, where the Guardsman is pulled out of a \$100 grand a year job and deployed for a year,” he said. “And now the family is at home coping with whatever the military pay is. And things are rough.”

In comparing the Cold War with the war on terrorism, Gibson said a major difference is that the United States could always negotiate with the Russians. They were sometimes “thick headed, maybe they cheated, maybe they really had ulterior motives that you couldn’t trust. But you could negotiate with them,” he said. “There’s no negotiating with (the terrorists).”